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Item 11 (d) of the provisional agenda

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: HUMAN RIGHTS, MASS EXODUSES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Human rights and mass exoduses

Addendum

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REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Amnesty International

[Original: English]
[28 October 1993]

Amnesty International sent with its submission its most recent published external reports on a number of countries, namely Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tadzhikistan, Tunisia, Turkey and Zaire. These reports describe in detail Amnesty International's concerns in those countries, including cases of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearance", political killings and the death penalty.

In its submission Amnesty International notes that it has documented serious and widespread human rights violations in many countries from which large numbers of people have fled and are currently seeking protection elsewhere. The organization believes that many of the most pressing refugee situations currently facing the international community have arisen as a direct consequence of such violations. The organization observes that the Commission on Human Rights itself has for a number of years recognized that human rights violations are one of the causes of refugee movements and mass exoduses. However, as indicated in the organization's statement to the Commission on Human Rights at its forth-ninth session, the Commission has not made any concerted effort to follow up on the link between human rights violations and refugee movements in its consideration of the human rights situation in countries around the world, and to take appropriate measures. Amnesty International believes the Commission on Human Rights must follow up on this link and take measures which will show it is willing to tackle human rights violations before they lead to mass exoduses.

The organization is submitting these documents because it believes that they describe in detail human rights violations which are certainly contributing to the refugee movements from these countries. In some cases, while there may not have been a sudden mass exodus of refugees across an immediately adjacent frontier, Amnesty International is aware that several thousands of people have left over a period of time and sought asylum in other States. In other cases, the human rights violations are contributing to large numbers of internally displaced persons who might eventually be forced to flee across an international frontier. Thus, Amnesty International believes that immediate measures to halt these violations would greatly reduce the need for people to flee their countries in search of protection elsewhere, and would go some way to allowing for refugees who have already fled to return home safely.

The list of countries covered does not include every situation where the link between refugee movements and human rights violations is apparent. However, it does cover countries where Amnesty International believes the Commission should take prompt action to ensure respect for fundamental human rights. Some of the countries listed, such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Zaire, are already on the Commission's agenda and Amnesty International will be

urging the Commission at its next session to renew the mandates of the Special Rapporteurs for these countries. However, much more effective and concerted action is required if new refugee flows are to be averted, and before the refugees who have already fled will be able to return safely home. The other countries listed above are not on the Commission's agenda, or have received only scant attention by the Commission, and Amnesty International believes that at its next session the Commission should give careful attention to the human rights situation in these countries and take the necessary action to address these violations which are contributing to refugee movements.